

§ 904.510 Return of seized property.

(a) *Return.* In cases where NOAA, in its sole discretion, determines that forfeiture of seized property would not be in the best interest of the U.S. Government, NOAA will make a reasonable attempt to determine the party that the facts of record indicate has a predominant ownership interest in the seized property and, provided such a determination can be made, will arrange for return of the seized property to that party by appropriate means.

(b) *Notice.* NOAA will serve a Notice of the Return of property as provided by § 904.3, to the owner, consignee, or other party the facts of record indicate has an interest in the seized property. The Notice will describe the seized property, state the time, place, and reason for the seizure and return, and will identify the owner or consignee, and if appropriate, the bailee of the seized property. The Notice of the return also will state that the party to whom the property is being returned is responsible for any distribution of the property to any party who holds a valid claim, right, title or interest in receiving the property, in whole or in part. The Notice also will provide that on presentation of the Notice and proper identification, and the signing of a receipt provided by NOAA, the seized property is authorized to be released.

PART 905—USE IN ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS OF INFORMATION COLLECTED BY VOLUNTARY FISHERY DATA COLLECTORS

Sec.

905.1 Scope.

905.2 Definitions.

905.3 Access to information.

905.4 Use of information.

905.5 Exceptions.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 1853(f).

SOURCE: 60 FR 39251, Aug. 2, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 905.1 Scope.

This part applies to the use, in enforcement proceedings conducted pursuant to the Magnuson Act, the MMPA, and the ESA, of information collected by voluntary fishery data collectors.

§ 905.2 Definitions.

When used in this part:

Consenting owner means the owner, operator, or crewmember of a vessel carrying a voluntary fishery data collector.

Enforcement proceeding means any judicial or administrative trial or hearing, initiated for the purpose of imposing any civil or criminal penalty authorized under the Magnuson Act, MMPA, or ESA, including but not limited to, any proceeding initiated to: Impose a monetary penalty; modify, sanction, suspend or revoke a lease, license or permit; secure forfeiture of seized property; or incarcerate an individual.

ESA means the Endangered Species Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations.

Information means all observations, data, statistics, photographs, film, or recordings collected by a voluntary fishery data collector for conservation and management purposes, as defined by the Magnuson Act, MMPA, or ESA, while onboard the vessel of a consenting owner.

Magnuson Act means the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations.

MMPA means the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations.

Secretary means the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, their chosen designees, or any other Federal agency authorized to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson Act, MMPA, or ESA.

Vessel means any vessel as defined at 16 U.S.C. 1802(31).

Voluntary fishery data collector means:

- (1) Any person, including an observer or a sea sampler;
- (2) Placed aboard a vessel by the Secretary;
- (3) For the purpose of collecting information; and
- (4) Whose presence aboard that vessel is not required by the Secretary pursuant to provisions of the Magnuson Act, MMPA, or ESA, or their implementing regulations.